

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, 10-12 and 21-32 are pending in this application. Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 12 and 21-32 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Seals. Claims 6 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 26 and 27 have been amended herein to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

New claims 33-38 have been added.

The applicant traverses the rejections under 35 USC 102(a) based upon the Seals patent. First, the applicant disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that the coefficient of thermal expansion of silica has a value of 22 and is approximately twice that of zirconia. The Examiner is respectfully requested to verify this information because it is not consistent with published and generally available data. Second, the applicant disagrees with the text of the rejection contained in the Office Action mailed on May 7, 2003. In particular, the applicant submits that it is not necessary or inherent that the ceramic coating of Seals will have cracks that extend between the embedded hollow particles and the surface of the coating. A Declaration of Ramesh Subramanian under 37 CFR 1.132 is attached herewith in support of the applicant's position.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1, 4-7, 10-12 and 21-38 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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